



SO MUCH OF THE R E P O R T

OF
RICHARD DUNTHORNE,

Superintendent of the Works of the *Bedford Level* Corporation,

MADE

At their General *Whitsun* Meeting, 1771,

AS RELATES TO THE

WISBEACH OUTFALL.

May 1. **I**N the Morning, I went to *Guybiri*, to give Directions for laying a Tunnel through the North Bank of *Moreton's Leam* near that Place, as ordered to do at the *April* Meeting; and in the Afternoon went from thence to *Wisbeach*, viewing the River and Marsh all the Way.

May 2. In the Morning, viewed the River through the Town of *Wisbeach*, and from thence down to, and for some Way below, the *Horsehoe*; and also the Low Land between *Wisbeach* and *Leverington*, as One of the Engineers who have viewed this Outfall proposed a Cut to be made beside the Town of *Wisbeach*, through that Country, to the *Horsehoe*; otherwise, as I had spent a Week in *September*, 1767, in viewing the said Outfall, taking Soundings, Levels, &c. I should hardly have thought another View at all necessary for forming an Opinion of it, or of the Improvement thereof.

thereof. What Opinion I formed of this Matter upon the said View, is pretty fully set down in my Journal of that Year; the Substance of which is as follows:

FIRST, To imbank the Washes, so as to confine such Floods to the River, as it shall be found practicable to do.

SECOND, To scour out the River above *Wisbeach*, and to deepen the Flats between *Wisbeach* and the River's End.

THIRD, To carry the River on through the *West Marsh* to *Gunthorpe Sluice*, by opening *Kinderley's Cut*, and from thence, by a new Cut to be made, through *Sutton Intakes*, so as to fall into the Bay again near *Sutton Leam*, pretty much as the same has been since proposed by Messieurs *Golborne* and *Brindley*. This then seemed to me the best Method for improving and preserving the present Outfall: Nor do I now see sufficient Reason for altering my Opinion, either from the Reports of the several great Engineers who afterwards viewed the same, or from any Change in the Circumstances of Things since that Time; For supposing (as a late Querist intimates) that it should not be practicable to carry the new Cut quite so far to Sea, or to make it quite so deep as these Engineers suppose; nor, if made, that it would be attended with all the desirable Consequences they attribute thereto; yet, in my humble Opinion, it would be a Means of preserving the adjacent Levels many Years longer than they can be preserved in the present State of the Outfall; especially if there be a sufficient River made through the High Marshes about *Guybourn*, and a new Cut beside the Town of *Wisbeach* (where there are certainly great Obstructions to the Passage of the Water, and these much more sensible than they were formerly, since the Floods have come off the Uplands with greater Rapidity); though I rather think the Cut should begin about *Cold Harbour*, just above the Place where the Marsh is straitened by a Bank across good Part of it, and should be continued in a right Line (or nearly so) from thence to the *Horsehoe*, about three Miles. I am well aware, that the making such Cut with a Sluice at each End thereof (which must

must be, to use it as a Slaker in Time of high Floods, as Mr. *Yeoman* proposes to do), and opening the River sufficiently through the High Marshes about *Guybirn*, will be a considerable Addition to the Expence, suppose Eight Thousand Pounds. Notwithstanding this, I cannot help thinking the Preservation of this Country, though it should be but for Half a Century longer than it can continue as Things now are, is well worth all the Expence, even if it were double of what the highest (which I take to be the truest) Computation makes it.

But, after all that has or can be said of this Way, I should be inclined to prefer a Cut through *Marshland* (if I had any Hopes of such Cut being obtained), for carrying the *Nene* into *Ouse*, as I mentioned in my Journal for 1767; and that for these two plain Reasons:

1. Because the Fall from *Wisbeach* to *Lynn* is much greater than from *Wisbeach* to the *Eye* (according to the best Levels hitherto taken *), though the Distances are nearly equal.

2. Because there would be a much higher Degree of Probability that the Waters of the *Ouse* and *Nene* united should be able to keep open a good Outfall to Sea, for a very long Time indeed, as they heretofore did when both came united to *Wisbeach*, than there is that either of them should do it singly while carried out at different Places,

* N. B. Mr. *Kinderley* informs us, that Mr. *Rowley*, who took the Fall from *Wisbeach* to *Lynn* with very nice and accurate Instruments in July 1722, found the same near seventeen Feet; whereas the Fall from *Wisbeach* to the *Eye*, taken by Mr. *Elstobb* in 1767, is not quite thirteen Feet,

By Order of the Board,

CHARLES NALSON COLE,
REGISTER,

I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately but I will try to write to you more often.

I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately but I will try to write to you more often.

I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately but I will try to write to you more often.

I have been thinking of you very much lately and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately but I will try to write to you more often.

Yours truly,

